

REMARKS

Claims 2-42 and 45-63 are pending in this application. Claims 17, 18, 26, 42, 45, 53, and 61 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

Examiner Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for the Interview conducted on September 24, 2008. During the Interview, the parties discussed the claimed invention and the cited art. The parties agreed that claims 45-60 are patentable over the art as cited. The parties further agreed that the elements of claims 54 are separately patentable.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Applicants have amended claims 17, 18, 26, 42 and 61 to include the allowable subject matter as discussed during the Interview.

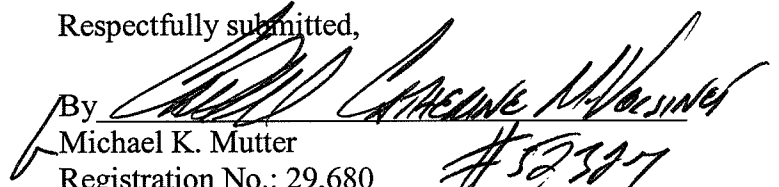
In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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